

Second Charter of Annapolis from Chancery Records 2, pp. 596-602
(transcript by Jean Russo, Maryland State Archives)

The Charter of the City of Annapolis

Anne by the grace of God of Greate Brittain France and Ireland and the Dominions thereunto b[e]longing Queen Defender of the faith &c To all and singular our faithfull subjects within our Province of Maryland Greeting Whereas there is a very pleasant healthfull and Comodius place for Trade by act of the G[ene]rall assembly of this our Province laid out for a Towne and Porte and called Annapolis in honour of us which said Towne and Porte hath in few years (especially since the accession of our Trusty and well beloved John Seymour Esqr our Capⁿ Generall and Governour in [597] Chiefe of this our Province to the Government thereof) very considerably Increased in the number of its Inhabitants as well as buildings, both publick and private soe That it Excelleth all other Townes and Ports in our said Province and for that our present Seate of Governm^t within our Province aforesaid is fixed att the said Porte and towne Whereby the same is become the Cheife [*sic*] Mart of the whole Countrey Wee being willing to Encourage all our Good and faithfull subjects as well att present Resideing and Inhabitting or which hereafter shall or may Inhabitt or Reside within the said Porte of Annapolis of our Royall Grace good will and meer motion with the advice of our Councill in our said Province have thought fitt and Doe by these our letters Pattents Constitute and Erect the said Towne and Porte of Annapolis together with the Circuits and Presincts [*sic*] thereof Includeing the lands heretofore laid out for the said Town and Porte of Annapolis Publick pasture and Towne Common together with the River and Creeks adjacent into a Citty by the name of the Citty of Annapolis and Doe grant to the Inhabittants of the said Citty that the same Citty shall be [an] Incorporate[d] Citty Consisting of a mayor one person learned in the Law stiled and bearing the office of Recorder of the said Citty and six Aldermen and Tenn other persons to be Common Councillmen of the said Citty which said Mayor Recorder Alderman and Common Councillmen, shall be a body Incorporated and one Comunity for ever (in Right and by the name of Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councill of the said City of Annapolis shall be able and Capable to sue & be sued att law and to act and

execute doe and performe as a body Incorporate which shall have succession for ever and to that end to have a Common Seale and that Amos Garrett Esq.^r one of the Inhabitants of the said City shall for the present be and be named Mayor of the said City for the ensueing year and Wornell Hunt Esq.^r Recorder thereof, and William Bladen, John ffreeman, Benj.^a Fordham, Evan Jones, Tho: Boardley and Josiah Willson Esqrs Inhabitants of the said Citty shall be Aldermen thereof soe long as they shall well behave themselves therein having first Taken and subscribed the Test and severall Oaths for security of the Government as by Law Established and alsoe the Oath appointed by us or our present Governour to be taken by the mayor Recorder and aldermen of the City of Annapolis aforesaid [598] Which shall be administred to them by our Governour in Chief [or] Keeper of the greate Seale of this our Province for the time being or by such other person or persons as wee our heirs and successors or our Gov^r aforesaid for the time being shall from time to time authorise and appoyⁱⁿt to administer the same and wee grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or the Major parte of them shall Ellect and Choose Tenn others of the most sufficient of the Inhabitants of the said City being ffreemen thereof to be of the Common Councill of the said City for soe long time as they shall well behave themselves and to perpetuate the succession of the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councill in all time to come wee doe grant that for the future they shall assemble in some convenient place in the said Citty upon the feast Day of S^t Michaell the Archangell in every year and shall Ellect and Choose by the Major Vote of such of them as shall be then present one other of the Aldermen of the said Citty for the time being to be Mayor of the Citty for the Ensueing year and upon Decease or removal of the said Mayor of the said City for the time being or upon any Decease or Dece^asses Removeall or Removealls of the said Recorder or Aldermen or any of them or within one month after such Respective Dece^asse or Deceases Removall or Removalls the Residue of the said Aldermen together with the said Mayor or if he shall be liveing or the major parte of them shall att a sett time by them to be appointed within y^e said City and presincts [*sic*] Ellect and nominate some other person or persons to be mayor Recorder alderman or aldermen of the said Citty in the place and places of such person or persons soe Deceased or removed Respectively as the case shall require soe as the said Mayor to be Ellected and

nominated be att the time of such Ellection and Nominacon actually one of the Aldermen of the said Citty and soe as the said Recorder soe to be Ellected and nominated be a person learned in the [Law] and soe as the said Alderman or Aldermen soe to be Ellected and nominated be actually att the time of such Ellection and nominacon of the Common Councill of the said City the said Mayor Recorder, Alderman or Aldermen soe to be Ellected and nominated first Takeing the S[eve]rall and Respective Oaths before menconed to be appointed as aforesaid and shall likewise then fill up by the Election of the free voters of the said Citty out of and from among the Inhabittants and freeholders of the said City the full number **[599]** Of tenn persons to be Common Councillmen and that the said persons hereby appointed and named or hereafter to be Elected and nominated mayor Recorder or aldermen [and] Justices of the peace within the City presincts [*sic*] and liberties thereof haveing first taken the oaths usually appointed to be taken by the Justices of the Peace the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen hereby named and appointed or hereafter to be Elected & nominated or any three of them whereof the said Mayor or Recorder for the time being shall be one shall have within the presincts [*sic*] of the said Citty full power and authority to make Constables and other nessessary officers and to rule order and govern the Inhabitants thereof as Justices of the peace are or shall be authorized to doe and shall have power to Execute all the Laws Ordinances and Statutes in that behalf made as fully and amply as if they were authorized thereto by Express Commission named therein willing and commanding that noe other Justices of peace or Quorum within our said County or Province doe att any time hereafter take upon them or any of them to Execute the office of Justice of peace within the said Citty or in the presincts [*sic*] thereof not withstanding any Commission att large authorizing them thereunto saveing the authority and jurisdiction of her Majesties Justices of Oyer and Terminer and Gaole deliver[y] now or hereafter to be assigned Dureing the time of their holding their S[eve]rall respective Courts in the said City and further wee will and grant unto the said Mayor Recorder and Common Councill of the said City for the time being full power and authority after the space of Six years to Ellect a sherriff for the said Citty but that untill then the sheriff of Anne Arund^{ll} County for the time being shall be sherriff for the said County and to make order and appoint such by Laws and Ordinances among

themselves for the Regulacon and good Government of Trade and other matters Exigences [*sic*] and things within the said Citty and presincts [*sic*] as to them or the major parte shall seem meet to be consonant to reason and not contrary but as near as conveniently may be agreeable to the Laws and Statutes now in force which said by laws shall be observed Kept & performed by all manner of persons Tradeing and Resideing within the said Citty under such reasonable pains penallties and Forfeitures as shall be imposed by the said Mayor Recorder aldermen and Common Councillmen or the major parte of them then assembled from time to time not exceeding forty shillings sterling the said Pains penaltys and Forfeitures to be raised by Distress and sale of the goods of such person offending and to be Employed for the Publick Benefitt of the said City at their Discretion and further wee doe grant and give full power Lycence Previllidge [*sic*] and authority to the mayor Recorder aldermen and Common [600] Councillmen of the said Citty for the time being and their successors for ever and alsoe all Freeholders of the said Citty that is to say all persons owneing a whole Lott of land with a house built thereon according to Law and all persons actually Resideing and Inhabitting in the said City haveing a visable Estate of the value of twenty pounds ster[ling] att the least and likewise all persons that hereafter shall serve five years to any Trade wth in this Citty and shall after the expiracon of their time be actually housekeepers and Inhabitants in the same to send two Citizens and Delegates to every of our assembly or assemblies hereafter to be held or att any time [or] times hereafter to be called to be held for this our said Province of Maryland to be Ellected and Chosen out of the Inhabittants actually being and Resideing within the said Citty haveing a ffreehold or visable Estate of the value of twenty pounds ster[ling] therein by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen Common Councillmen Freeholders and Freemen as aforesaid or the major parte of them being then present by virtue of our Writt or writts of action to be sent to them for that purpose which said writt or writts wee doe hereby grant shall be issued out and sent to the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen when and soe often as occasion shall require Provided that all such Elector or Voters as aforesaid Doe take an oath to be true to the Interest of the said City before they be admitted to such vote and Provided alsoe and at all times after the end of the next Generall Assembly to be

held for this Province noe Freeman as aforesaid not being a ffreeholder as aforesaid shall have the libertie of such vote as aforesaid until free three months after such his freedom obtained and when hereafter there shall happen any Generall Assembly to be held according as writs shall be sent to the S[eve]rall and Respective Counties for Electing Deputies or Delegates for their severall and Respective Counties in this our Province of Maryland wee further grant that the said Citizens and Delegates by them soe as aforesaid Elected and sent shall have full and free votes and voices in all and every of our Generall Assemblys touching or Concerning all matters or things there to be Discoursed and handled as other the Deputies or Delegates of the s[eve]rall and Respective Countys formerly have had now have or hereafter shall have and further wee grant and give Lycence to the Mayor Recorder Alderman and Common Councillmen of the said City for the time being and their successors **[601]** For Ever to have and to hold two markets weekly within this said Citty on every wedn[e]sday and Saturday in the weeke in some Convenient place to be by them appointed within the presincts [*sic*] [&] Liberties of the said City and alsoe two ffairs yearly to be kept on Munday otherwise called S^t Phillip and Jacobs Day and on the feast of S^t Michaell the Archangell or on the next Day succeeding each or either of them in case they shall happen to fall on the Lords Day for the sale and vending all mannor [*sic*] of goods Cattle wares and Merchandizes whatever on which said ffair Day & first two days before and after all persons comeing to the said ffairs together with their Cattle goods wares and Merchandizes and returning thence shall be exempt and Previllidged [*sic*] from any arrest attachm^{ts} or Executions whatsoever and that the said Mayor and Aldermen shall have power to sett such Reasonable Tole upon such goods Cattle Merchandizes and other Comodities as **shall** be sold therein Respectively as shall be thought fitt not exceeding six pence on every Beast sold and the twentieth parte of the vallue of any Comodity and shall and may hold a Courte of Pypowdry Dureing the said ffair for the Determination of all Controversies and Quarrels which may happen therein according to the usuall Course in England in the like Cases and wee grant unto them all Profitts and perquisits [*sic*] Due Incident and belonging to said Markett fair and Courte of Pypowdry and further wee doe grant that the said Mayor Recorder, and Aldermen or any three or more of them shall hold

a Courte of Hustings within the said City where they are hereby Impowered to make proper officers and settle Reasonable ffees not exceeding what are now allowed in the County Courte and shall have jurisdiction and hold Plea of Trespass and Ejectment for any lands or Tenements within the said City as alsoe of all writts of Dower for the same land and Tenements and of all other actions personall and mixt and as a Courte of Record give Judgem^t and award Execucon thereon according to the Laws and Statues of England and this Province [602] Provided the Demand in the said action personall and mixt exceed not the sume of six pound ten shillings ster[ling] or seventeen hundred pounds of Tobacco and Provided nevertheless that any party or partys plantiffs or Defendants shall be at their liberty on good grounds to bring writts of habeas Corpus and Certiorarie to remove any Plaints from the said Hustings to the Provinciall Courte of this Province and alsoe to appeale from the Judgment of the mayors or bring writts of Error att their Choice to the Provinciall Courte under such Limitacon and Regulacon as is already by the act of assembly of this Province assigned for prosecuteing appeales and writts of Error from the County Courtes to the Provincial In Testimony whereof wee have caused these our letters to be made Pattent Given att annapolis under the greate seale of our said Province Wittness our Trusty and well beloved John Seymour Esq^r Capⁿ G[ene]rall and Governour in chief of our said Province this twenty second Day of November in the seventh year of our Reigne &c. annoque Domni 1708